

DECLARATION

Made by the Right Reverend

Dr. GEORGE HICKES, *K*

CONCERNING

The FAITH and RELIGION in which he
lived and intended to die : and referred
to in his WILL.

He being dead, yet speaketh.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year MDCCXLIII.

DECLARATION

Made by the Right Reverend

DR. GEORGE HICKES

A Passage out of Dr. *Hickes's* WILL,
p. 11. printed by *Curl*.

‘ As for my Religion, I make this De-
‘ clARATION in the Presence of Almighty God,
‘ that as I have hitherto professed to live, so
‘ by God’s Grace I unfeignedly purpose to
‘ continue till Death in the Faith and Com-
‘ munion of the Church of *England*, as
‘ by Law established since the *Reformation*,
‘ as I have also testified at large in a Decla-
‘ ration interlined and signed with my own
‘ Hand.’



L O W D O N .

Printed in the Year 1704.



THE DECLARATION.



AVING had many dangerous Sickneses of late Years; and my natural Weakness of Constitution being also much increased by my long Sufferings, and considering how obnoxious I am among others to be shut up in Prison, by reason of the frequent Suspensions of the Act of *Habeas Corpus*, and my being so obnoxious to the new Act of Recusancy, and having the Prospect of Death before me; from these and other Causes I do here make this solemn Declaration and Profession, to leave behind me an Account of my Faith and Religion, to bear my Testimony to the righteous Cause, for which by God's Grace I have been a Sufferer: And thereby to comfort and encourage the faithful, to settle and confirm the wavering and doubtful, and to awaken the Consciences of those, who are fallen, and among them more especially to endeavour the

Recovery of such, as fell through mere human Frailty, as in Charity I believe the greater Part have done.

I. I profess and declare, that I stedfastly believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith into which I was baptized, and more particularly I declare my hearty Belief in the Holy Trinity of Persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, in whose Names I was baptized, and whom I acknowledge to be one God, adoring the Trinity in Unity, and Unity in Trinity, according to the Doctrine of the Catholick Church.

II. I confess our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ to be very God of very God, and of one Substance with the Father, by whom he was begotten from all Eternity; and I believe him to be God and Man in one Person, and in Virtue of his priestly Office our only Mediator and Advocate in Heaven, and through his alone Merits and Intercession I hope for Remission of all my Sins.

III. I profess, and by God's Grace am resolved to abide firm and constant in the Unity and Communion of the Holy Catholick Church, and of all particular Churches, which are true, pure, sound, and faithful Members thereof. And as for those many Christian Societies commonly calling themselves Churches, with which I hold no Communion, I pity them from my Heart, and daily pray for them, though I cannot communicate with them; and
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the reason why I cannot join with them in Communion is, because I cannot do it without Sin upon Catholick Principles, some of them wanting the Essentials of a Church, others being corrupt in Doctrine, or Worship, or in both, and others again having made sinful Separations from their lawful Bishops and Pastors contrary to the Constitution of the Church Catholick, and the Doctrine of Christian Unity and Subordination taught and maintained as necessary to Salvation in the best and purest Ages thereof.

IV. I profess and declare the Church of *England*, as it was governed and administered by true, and lawful, and rightful Bishops before the *Revolution*, to have been a true and sound Part of the Catholick Church; and I testify my unalterable Adherence to all the Doctrines of it contained in the *Thirty-nine Articles*, in Opposition to the corrupt and dangerous Doctrines and Practices of the Roman Church, and other dangerous Doctrines and Practices; and this I do to vindicate myself and my suffering Brethren from the Opinion which the common People, and other ignorant and inconsiderate Persons have taken up of us, as Papists, or inclined to Popery, because we have withdrawn ourselves from the publick Assemblies and Worship in the parochial Churches.

V. I profess and declare my unalterable Adherence to the deprived Bishops, as being the

true, lawful and Canonical Pastors of their respective Dioceses, their pretended Deprivation being not only unjust, but null and void from the Beginning. And I resolve by God's Grace as long as I live to be subject to them and their canonical Successors and Collegues, in Opposition to the Usurpers of their Dioceses and their Successors, and all others who have presumed, or hereafter shall presume to elect or consecrate such Bishops, or who have owned, or hereafter shall own, or acknowledge them after their Consecrations, as rightful and canonical Bishops of this Church: And this I think myself obliged in Conscience to declare, and practise by the Constitution of the Catholick Church, the Catholick Doctrine of Ecclesiastical Unity and Subordination, and according to the like Examples and Practices of holy Men and Confessors in the best and purest Times, which all Christians ought to follow. Accordingly I am fully perswaded and declare, that the Church of *England* now consists in the deprived Bishops, so called, and that faithful Remnant which adheres to them, and that the other Archbishops, and Bishops, and the great Majority adhering to them are guilty of a great Schism to be lamented by all good Christians.

VI. As the Church of *England* hath been, and ever will be venerable and famous for teaching the Duty of patient Suffering for Righteousness, and that it is not lawful upon
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any Pretence whatsoever to take up Arms against the supreme Power in any lawful Government, and particularly against our own *Kings*; so I here declare my firm Belief of that Doctrine, as she hath taught it in the Book of *Homilies*. And I praise Almighty God, who by his Providence was pleased to call me out in a remarkable Crisis of Time to defend that holy Doctrine; and I bless his holy Name who hath since enabled me to do and suffer so much in Consequence of it; and I here declare it to be not only the Doctrine of this Church, but a principal Point of Christianity, comprehending in it's Practice many eminent Christian Graces, and Virtues which make it so contrary to Flesh and Blood, as Faith, Hope, Patience, Fortitude, Trust in God, a Contempt of the World, and the highest Resignation to the Will of God. And I further declare, that, as our Church hath taught it it was taught by Christ and his Apostles, and their Successors, and accordingly practised in the best and purest Ages of the Church, when the Christians had Strength and Power sufficient to make Resistance, and when the greatest Part of them were converted *Greeks* and *Romans*, who had been bred up to contrary Principles; as that the People were the Fountain of all just Power, that Kings had their Power from them, that they were accountable to them, and might be resisted and deposed by them, if they abused that Pow-

er. Nay, I must add, that these very Christians practised this Doctrine under many Roman Emperors, who utterly subverted the Constitution of the Empire from a Civil into a Servile Government, and most barbarously and inhumanly not only violated the most fundamental and inviolable Laws of it, but the Laws of Nature and the common Rights of Mankind.

VII. I desire to glorify God, and leave behind me this Monument of my Thankfulness to him, not only for bringing me to be a Member of the Church of *England*, who had my Education in the Times of the **Great Rebellion**, but for calling me to be one of his Ministers in it, of which Vocation I acknowledge myself to have been unworthy, and for the honourable Stations he was pleased to give me therein. And as for my Deprivation of them since the *Revolution* for not taking the New Oath of Allegiance, in all Respects so contrary to the Old, I bless God, who gave me the Courage and Constancy to refuse it, and for making me stand in the Time of Trial, when so many others to my Astonishment fell. However in that great Apostasy of the Nation, it pleased God to reserve to himself a Remnant of faithful Persons, and I magnify him with all my Soul, and will ever praise him as long as I have my Being, for making me one of them, and thinking me worthy to suffer in so righteous a Cause, as that in which I have been engaged. As
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I did at first, so I still firmly believe, that it was my bounden and indispensable Duty to refuse the said Oath, and that I ought to suffer Death rather than take it. And I declare, that on my Sick-beds, and in my nearest Approaches to Death, it hath been a great Support and Comfort to me to consider, that I did a Thing which I am convinced in my Conscience was so much for God's Honour, and the Honour of our holy Religion; and I am fully persuaded he will reward me for it, and all my Losses and Sufferings, which have followed upon it, according to his Promises: And I am still so satisfied with what I have done, from the plain Word of God, the Example of the best Christians, and the Dictates and Directions of my own Conscience, that if it were all to be done again, I would certainly do it, though an Angel from Heaven should preach another Doctrine; and this I declare for the Sake of some Men, who say we suffer for our Follies and Fancies, and Mistakes; and of others, who have told the World, that our Non-compliance with this Government, proceeds from Shame, Pride, Obstinacy, and other ill Affections, or a Prospect of another *Revolution*.

VIII. As God by his Grace hath enabled me to suffer in Company with so many worthy and conscientious Men for our common Cause; so I also praise him for giving me an active Zeal to defend ourselves and it in several Pieces,
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against the Reproaches and Calumny, and false Reasonings of some of our Adversaries in their printed Sermons and Discourses. And as I trust I wrote them with a Zeal not unsuitable to, or unworthy of our glorious Cause, so I wrote them with an Intention so pure and with so great a regard to Truth, that to my Knowledge I have not injured any one Person in them: But whereas I related some Things in them upon Information from others, who were all Persons worthy of Belief, and so esteemed in the World; so if through their Mistakes or Misinformations, or my mistaking of them I have happened, as upon strict Examination and Recollection, I believe I have not, to injure any one Person against my Intention in any one Particular, I ask God's and his Pardon for it. And whereas the most laudable Zeal of the best Men in the best Causes is apt sometimes to heat them more than is needful, and give them too keen and severe a Stile: So if my Zeal for Truth and Righteousness, and the Constitution, Rights and Unity of the Church, hath, notwithstanding my Care to the contrary, transported me too far, and made me write against any one of our Adversaries with more Indignation and Severity of Expression, than was consistent with the Strictness of Christian Meekness and Charity, I beg his Pardon also for that, and the favourable Construction of all good Men, who know what Allowances are
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to be made to the best Men, that write Controversies upon such Subjects and Occasions, and against such insulting and provoking Adversaries, and in such degenerate and unhappy Times. I here declare, I neither have nor ever had any personal Ill-will against any one of them, though in the Defence of Innocence, Truth, and Justice I thought, and still think, that I might with a good Conscience detect them, and their Opinions and Practices, after the Example of some of the most holy Fathers and Martyrs in their Writings against *Hereticks* and *Schismaticks* in the primitive Times.

IX. And as I ask Forgiveness of these and all other Men, whom I have any ways justly offended or injured; so I forgive from my Heart all that have injured me, how great or how harmful Enemies soever they are, or have been to me; beseeching God also to forgive them, and never to lay to their Charge the Wrongs I have sustained by or from any of them, especially from those who have persecuted us for not complying with them, against the known Constitution and Laws of the Kingdom, the plain Duty of *English* Subjects, the plain Laws of God, and the Dictates and Duty of natural Honesty and Conscience.

X. I declare my hearty Sorrow for the great Miseries and Calamities, that have befallen this sinful and exhausted Kingdom through the Iniquity of the People, but more especially I bewail that reprobate Mind, and
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judicial Blindness, that seems to be in all Ranks and Conditions of Men amongst us; and I beseech God of his infinite Mercy to remove this Judgment, and to open the Eyes, and turn the Hearts of this great People, and those who mislead them, that they may return to their Obedience, and call back their exiled King, and so put an End to those Distractions and Confusions, which can have no End, till the hereditary King by lineal Succession comes to wear the Crown.

XI. I also declare my hearty Sorrow for the Schism, which the whole Nation, except a small Remnant, is guilty of in ejecting and forsaking their rightful Bishops and Pastors, and I beseech God so to touch the Hearts, and enlighten the Understandings of the People and the Clergy, who mislead them, that they may both repent, and by their Repentance divert the Judgments of God, and put an End to that lamentable Discord and Division in the Church, of which they are the Causes, and which give not only our Adversaries of the Roman and dissenting Communion, but *Atheists, Deists, and Scepticks*, the common Enemies of Christianity, occasion to triumph.

XII. I beseech Almighty God to give the King a Sight of his Errors, and true Repentance for his Apostasy from the true Religion into which he was baptized, and for which his Father was both a Confessor and Martyr; and I pray God to comfort and support him

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in all his Distresses, to bless him with wise and faithful Counsellors, and to restore him, if it be his blessed Will, without Bloodshed, to his Crowns. I also beseech him to bless, comfort, and convert the Queen; and as for the Prince of *Wales*, I pray God to look upon him, as the Grandson of the Royal Martyr, and to grant, that he may live to sit upon the Throne of his Ancestors, and become a *Josiah* to this Church and Kingdom: May God preserve him, and give him Grace timely to discern the Errors of his Education, and if by God's Providence this Paper happen to come to his Sight, I desire and conjure his Royal Highness, as he expects God should bless him, and by all that I have done and suffered for the Royal Cause, to read the excellent Works of his Great Grandfather and Grandfather, who were learned and religious Kings, and much more able and competent Judges, than his Royal Father, in the great Controversy betwixt us and those of the Church of *Rome*. And in the mean Time till he shall attain to the Years of Discretion, in which he shall be able to judge for himself; God grant, that he may grow up in Wisdom and Stature, and Favour with God and the People of these unhappy Kingdoms.

XIII. I also beg of God for his infinite Goodness to comfort and support the whole suffering Remnant under all the Pressures and Persecutions, that are sent to prove them, and to inspire

inspire them with Faith, Courage, and Constancy, that they may endure to the End. More particularly I beseech him to bless and preserve the faithful Bishops and Clergy, and to inspire them with religious Wisdom and Courage, and all other Gifts and Graces, that are needful for them, and the present distressed State of the Church: Most especially I beseech God to direct and assist our holy Fathers the Bishops, and to possess their Hearts with such a Sense of their Duty, and such a Zeal and Care, and Love for the Church, that they may provide for it in Times to come, and not leave the Flock, which adheres to them, like Sheep without a Shepherd; and the Lord of his Mercy be with them, and their Successors in all they do, and suffer for his Sake, and when the Time of Healing and Re-union shall come, may God so assist and prosper them in that great Work, that they may resettle the Church in Truth, Peace and Unity, and for so doing receive the Reward of good and faithful Servants from their great Lord, who purchased it with his Blood.

Lastly, I declare, that as I have always maintained, and by God's Assistance ever will to my utmost Power maintain the just Rights and Prerogatives of the Crown, so to the best of my Understanding I ever have maintained, and in my Station, when Time was, did maintain the lawful Rights of the People. What the Constitution and Law give the King as a Monarch,

Monarch, I will render unto his Majesty; and what Immunities, Rights, and Liberties the People have by our Constitution, as a Civil Government, or by the Grants of our Kings, I will claim and defend as a Subject; and this I declare for the Sake of some Men, who have misrepresented and slandered many truly loyal and conscientious Persons, as if they were for Arbitrary Power, and Betrayers of the Liberties of their Country, because they teach and maintain our Kings to be truly Sovereigns, and as such, to be irresistible, indeposable and unaccountable to the People. But it is one Thing for a King, as supreme, to have those Prerogatives of Supremacy, and another to have unlimited and Arbitrary Power: For the Law limits both the King's and the People's Rights, and I neither am, nor ever was, nor ever will be for Arbitrary Government or boundless Power in the one, or for arbitrary Subjection, or boundless Liberty in the other. I cannot but bewail the utter Subversion of our Constitution, in the Laws, which were most fundamental to it, by and since the *Revolution*, which hath brought so much Calamity not only upon the King, and the Royal Family, but the Church, and the whole Kingdom. I bless God, who hath kept me from all the Guilt of it, free and pure to this Day; and I beseech him to grant, that our past, as well as present and future

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Misery in Prospect, may be a Warning in Times to come both to the Royal Family, and the People, never to join again against their lawful King in any Rebellion, especially in the most dangerous of all Rebellions under ambitious Princes of the Blood.

This Profession and Declaration I have made in my Health, that I may not have it to do at the Time of my Death; and when, or wheresoever that shall happen, I trust by God's Mercy to be made a Partaker of everlasting Glory with the Martyrs and Confessors of the Church of *England*, who in former and latter Usurpations have gone before me in the same Cause. And I desire, what I have here written may be taken for my dying Confession and Declaration, though I should not have the Opportunity of signing it, as I purpose to do on my Sick-bed, or when I shall think myself in any Danger of Death. But because in this State of Persecution I look upon myself not as a Citizen, but a Stranger and Pilgrim in this World, who have no abiding Place, I therefore now set my Hand unto it this viiith Day of *September* Anno Dom. MDCXCVI.

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GEORGE HICKES.